

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-6. (cancelled)

7. (previously presented) A method for obtaining an electrical signal from a patient at the patient's skin, said method comprising:

locating a dermal area of said patient approximating a meridian;

contacting, with a probe, said dermal area, said probe comprising:

a stationary element to stabilize said probe against said dermal area;

a probe tip operably connected to said biasing element to apply a pressure to said dermal area;

a detector operably connected to said probe tip to detect an electrical signal at the patient's skin corresponding to said pressure;

a feedback loop connected to said detector to provide a feedback signal containing information with respect to said electrical signal at the patient's skin;

a biasing element connected to said feedback loop to receive said feedback signal and adjust said pressure in accordance with said feedback signal; and

obtaining, from said probe, an electrical signal at the patient's skin corresponding to said meridian.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein said locating a dermal area further comprises providing a point locator for indicating a dermal location having a substantially greater bioelectric conductance value than a surrounding dermal area, said point locator configured to produce audible signals indicating said location.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein said probe further comprises:
- a conductive base; and
 - an abrasive bristly matrix coupled to a surface area of said conductive base, wherein a plurality of bristles of said abrasive bristly matrix simultaneously contact said dermal area.
10. (previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein said information comprises a bioelectric conductance value.
11. (previously presented) A method for obtaining an electrical signal from a patient at the patient's skin, said method comprising:
- measuring relative conductance of a dermal area of said patient proximate a meridian;
 - contacting with a probe the skin, said probe comprising:
 - a stationary element to stabilize said probe against said location;
 - a probe tip operably connected to said biasing element to apply a pressure to said location;
 - a detector operably connected to said probe tip to detect an electrical signal at the patient's skin corresponding to said pressure;
 - a feedback loop connected to said detector to provide a feedback signal containing information with respect to said electrical signal at the patient's skin; and
 - a biasing element connected to said feedback loop to receive said feedback signal and adjust said pressure in accordance with said feedback signal; and
 - obtaining, from said probe, an electrical signal at the patient's skin corresponding to said meridian.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein said measuring relative conductance of a dermal area further comprises:
- iteratively measuring a bioelectric conductance value of a surface of said dermal area;
- iteratively comparing a first said bioelectric conductance value corresponding to a first surface location to a second said bioelectric conductance value corresponding to a second surface location;
- audibly indicating a dermal location where said second bioelectric conductance value is substantially greater than said first bioelectric conductance value.
13. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein said probe further comprises:
- a conductive base; and
- an abrasive bristly matrix coupled to a surface area of said conductive base, wherein a plurality of bristles of said abrasive bristly matrix simultaneously contact said dermal area.
14. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein said information comprises a bioelectric conductance value corresponding to said pressure.
15. (cancelled)